UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/374
24 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, I should like to draw to the attention of the members of the Security Council the fate of 3,000 Rwandan and Zairian families who are currently under siege by former Rwandan Government forces responsible for the massacre of more than one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda two years ago.

On 12 May, approximately 100 Tutsis living in Zaire were slaughtered in an attack on a Trappist monastery in Mokoto. Now the 3,000 families are surrounded in the villages of Kichonga and Myamitaba by military forces of the former Rwandan Government who fled to Zaire in 1994 and now operate there with impunity. More than 65,000 Kinyarwanda-speaking Zairian nationals and old case-load Rwandan refugees have fled their homes in Zaire's Massisi region since April to escape ethnic violence. The conflict in Massisi has displaced approximately 250,000 since late last year.

For this reason I am calling for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to take immediate action to prevent genocide in eastern Zaire.

(Signed) Manzi BAKURAMUTSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Rwanda to the United Nations

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